

Who's here ? speak₃ ho!—No answer ?—
What is

this ?

Timon **is** dead, who hath outstretch'd
his span: Some beast rear'd this ; there
does not live a man⁴. Dead, sure; and
this his grave.—

* Some beast REAR'D this; there does not live a man.] [Old copy—razrfthis.] Some beast *read* what ? The Soldier had yet only seen the rude pile of earth heaped up for Timon's grave, and not the *inscription* upon it. We should read :

*¹ Some beast *rear'd* this ; — " "

The Soldier seeking, by order, for Timon, sees such an irregular mole, as he concludes must have been the workmanship of some beast inhabiting the woods; and such a cavity as must either have been so over-arched, or happened by the casual falling in of the ground. WARBURTON.

" The Soldier (says Theobald) hadye* only seen the rude pile of earth heaped up for Timon's grave, and not the *inscription* upon it." In support of his emendation, which was suggested to him by Dr. Warburton, he quotes these lines from Fletcher's Cupid's Revenge :

" Here is no food, nor beds ; nor any *house*
^{fe} Built by a better architect than *beasts*"

MALONE.

Notwithstanding this remark, I believe the old reading to be the right. " The soldier had only seen the rude heap of earth." He had evidently seen something that told him *Timon was dead* ; and what could tell that but his tomb ? The tomb he sees, and the inscription upon it, which not being able to read, and finding none to read it for him, he exclaims peevishly, " some beast read this," for it must be read, and in this place it cannot be read by man.

There is something elaborately unskilful in the contrivance of sending a Soldier, who cannot read, to take the epithet in wax, only that it may close the play by being read with more solemnity in the last scene. JOHNSON.

I am convinced that the emendation made by Mr. Theobald is right, and that it ought to be admitted into the text:—Some beast *rear d* this. Our poet certainly would not make the Soldier call on a beasSt to read the inscription, *before* he had informed the audience that he could not read it himself; which he does *after-wards*.

Besides; from the time he asks, " What is this ? " [i. e. what is this cave, tomb, *Sec.* not what is this *inscription* P] to the words., " What's on this tomb/* —the observation evidently relates to Timon himself, and his grave; whereas, by the erroneous reading of the old copy, " Some beast *read* this/'—the Soldier is first made